querries in and around the town within a radius of ten miles; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to set up such a project in Tindivanam in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The black grainte polishing industry is a non-scheduled industry and does not require any licensing. Entrepreneurs are free to set up units based on the availability of black granite in Tindivanam, Tamil Nadu.

Kootterippattn as industrially backward area in Tamil Nadu

2152. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kootterippattn in Tindivanam Taluk, Tamil Nadu, has been declared as industrially backward area; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to promote industries there to raise the economic condition of the people of this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b) The entire district of South Arcot including the Taluk of Tindivanam has been declared industrially backward by the Central Government. Industrialisation of any particular area/district is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplement their efforts to the extent possible.

Drop in demand for commercial vehicles

2153. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that demand for commercial vehicles, LCV and passenger cars has dropped by about 25 per cent during the last two months;

(b) whether this is likely to cause recessions in the automobile industry; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN): (a) The sale figures of Commercial Vehicles and passenger cars (given below) during Sept.-Oct., 1991 have actually been higher as compared to those of the corresponding period of 1990.

	Sept-Oct. 90	Sept.-Oct. 1991
Commercial Vehicles	20,177	22,019
Passengers Cars	19,768	25,362

(b) and (c) While the sales of Commercial vehicles and passenger cars have been fluctuating in different months of the year, the analysis of sale figures of last two months when compared to the corresponding period of the previous year does not indicate a recessionary trend.

Losses suffered by H.E.Cs.

2154. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loss suffered by two Heavy Engineering Corporations during the last two years and so far during the current year;

(b) what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to curtail these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The amount of loss suffered by the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi during the last two years and during the current year so far have been as under:—

	(Rs. in crores)
1989-90	(—) 33.62
1990-91	(—) 99.51
1991-92 (Prov.) (April, 91 Nov., 91)	(—) 77.49